

The office, led by Sheriff Bob White, recently became one of the first law enforcement agencies in the country to receive accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), an honor which only about one of every four law enforcement agencies ever earn.

The Sheriff's Office received this accreditation after an exhaustive review of its policies and procedures. The Office began preparing for its assessment in early 2003 by reviewing its readiness for such a formal and comprehensive review. The men and women in its employ scrutinized hundreds of policies and procedures and revised and rewrote those which needed altering to comply with CALEA standards.

The formal assessment for CALEA accreditation then began last summer. CALEA assessors descended on the Sheriff's office to conduct an inspection which lasted four days. They reviewed files, toured the agency, inspected personnel, tested equipment, listened to presentations, and rode-along on patrols. They then recommended the Office, which met or exceeded nearly all of CALEA's standards, receive full accreditation late last year. The Sheriff's Office must continue to comply with these standards and will undergo the same scrutiny every three years to maintain its accreditation.

The CALEA accreditation means that the Pasco County Sheriff's Office has met accepted law enforcement standards in preventing and controlling crime, increased agency effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of law enforcement services, improved coordination with other law enforcement agencies, and bolstered employee and community confidence in its goals, objectives, policies, and practices.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Pasco County Sheriff's Office is one of the most dedicated and professional law enforcement agencies in the state of Florida and around the country. I am both proud and thankful that Sheriff Bob White and his charges are on the job protecting me and my constituents and representing the law enforcement community so ably and honorably. I hope that our colleagues are as fortunate as my constituents are to have such dedicated men and women protecting them.

#### HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATIVE AMERICANS ACT OF 2004

#### HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 4471, the Home Ownership Opportunities for Native Americans Act. I was pleased to introduce this bill with my friend and colleague on the Financial Services Committee, Mr. RENZI.

Many Native Americans continue to live in appalling housing conditions even as those in much of the nation have improved. American Indian and Alaska Native populations live in housing that is often and justifiably compared to third world nations. One out of every five Indian homes lacks complete plumbing facilities. Over 90,000, American Indians and Alaska Natives are homeless or underhoused.

On May 3, the Housing Subcommittee of the Financial Services Committee conducted a field hearing on the Navajo Reservation in an effort to better understand the challenges facing Native Americans in obtaining housing and to find ways to improve housing opportunities for Native Americans.

The Home Ownership Opportunities for Native Americans Act is the first of many needed legislative efforts to address the issues raised during our field hearing. This bill makes a simple and necessary correction—it will statutorily confirm a 95% loan guarantee under Title VI of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA).

While this vital Native American housing program at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has operated at a 95% loan guarantee level since its implementation, a recent determination by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has indicated that only an 80% loan guarantee level is authorized without further action from Congress. H.R. 4471 makes this needed change and ensures that this important housing program will continue to be used to help Native Americans obtain housing.

I appreciate the strong leadership of my colleague from Arizona, Mr. RENZI, Ranking Member WATERS, and Chairman NEY on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to address the many difficult challenges facing Native Americans in achieving home ownership.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SACRIFICE OF AN AMERICAN HERO: SPE- CIALIST ERIC MCKINLEY

#### HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the very special life of Eric MCKINLEY.

Eric, like most young men, loved his family, enjoyed his job, and dreamed of doing something important with the time given him.

But Specialist Eric McKinley was different from most. Simply put, Eric did more in his brief twenty-four years than many ever will. This local hero volunteered to serve his community, his State, and his Nation for a six year enlistment with the Oregon Army National Guard.

He proudly did his duty, and then he did more. You see, Eric was due to come home and be discharged in early April. His family, his friends, and his coworkers at the bakery shop in Corvallis where he worked longed for his laugh, his smile—his gentle presence.

But it was not to be.

Like a lot of young soldiers, Eric McKinley's service was extended in Iraq because his special skills were needed to rebuild a broken state, protect a delicate peace, and foster a climate within which a vulnerable but growing seed of democracy might take root.

Eric took his duty seriously, he knew the risks, and yet this self-sacrificing man chose to serve. He accepted his charge without complaint, he understood the need of the extension and quietly soldiered on as he always had.

Eric is the face of the Guard—but he is also the face of our community.

His desire was simple: lift young people up; provide them with new and viable alternatives for a healthy life, and provide a place for safe and meaningful fun.

Eric McKinley will not have the opportunity to build his own business as he had dreamed and watch the young people of Benton County enjoy the fun of a safe haven.

We are all now indebted to Eric's spirit and sacrifice. We are all now accountable to seek out the opportunities of tomorrow to help the young people that he cared so much about. We must stretch ourselves to make Eric's vision a new reality. All of us must join together to take up Eric's personal commitment in seeking to provide opportunities for the young people in our lives.

As the seasons come and the time passes, the pain of our loss will slowly subside. But the sacrifice of Eric McKinley will be as significant then as it is today: he gave his all so that others could have life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Eric's sacrifice must always be remembered.

It is now, and will be forever, our turn to repay the debt.

#### TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR BILLY TENTION

#### HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the career of an extraordinary South Carolinian, United States Army Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Billy Tention. Following 30 years of distinguished service and after reaching the Army's highest enlisted rank, CSM Tention will retire from active duty on July 9, 2004. The significance of this milestone is matched only by his devoted service.

General George C. Marshall once said, "There is no limit to the good you can do if you don't care who gets the credit." This defines the military career of CSM Tention.

Born in September 1953, in Camden, South Carolina, he entered the Army in September 1974, after graduating from Ashwood Central High School. He underwent basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and received his Advanced Training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. CSM Tention then excelled at every rung up the leadership ladder. From his early days as non-commissioned officer in charge of the Services Branch at Eisenhower Army Medical Center to Hospital Command Sergeant Major at Fort Leonard Wood, CSM Tention has demonstrated the Army's core values: selfless service, loyalty, honor, and integrity.

His dedicated 30-year commitment to the Army speaks of his loyalty, loyalty to his country, the Army, and most importantly, his fellow soldiers. "Do your duty in all things," General Robert E. Lee once said. "You can never do more. You should never wish to do less." CSM Tention did his duty through service in numerous assignments including war-fighting during the first Persian Gulf War and other overseas duty in Europe and Asia. There's an old Army saying: "Take care of your people,